

Annual report for 2006/2007 presented at the Annual Assembly April 2007

There has been some progress made within the Village. The web site and the new central Notice board are better ways of keeping a broad spectrum of people informed of the activities of the Council. These two initiatives were the result of the Parish Plan.

New trees have been planted, on the edge of Bush lane playing fields and the old ones removed, much to the residents' joy. In addition, the work carried out on the playing fields, over the last few years, has seen a big improvement to the football and cricket pitches. This has been rewarded by the Football Association best kept pitch award. The Balderstone/Mill View, grass verge area, where controversy took place, has been planted with laurel and copper beach hedgerows, to the satisfaction of the residents in this area.

The Bunker St. Open Space area has been reinstated and our thanks go to Mr. Allan Butler for sponsoring the new seat. Work will continue to tidy up this area.

The policing in the Village remains a concern to the Parish Council. At every Council meeting during the last 12 months, it has been pointed out that there is a lack of policing and this has resulted in their inability to address the anti-social behaviour within the village, which is supposed to be alcohol free in public areas. It is hoped that another 11.8% increase on the Police charge, within the community tax and the re-opening of the Police house on Lytham road, will lead to better policing in the future.

Concern has also been expressed about the number of accidents at the crossing on the main Preston new road, at the junction of Lower lane. We hope that LCC will look at this cross over with more concern and provide a safer means of crossing, in the near future.

Recently, the Parish Council supported a plaque that has been constructed and placed adjacent to the crash site of the air disaster in 1944.

The Parish Council's thanks go to the Freckleton in Bloom committee for their dedication that reached new heights this year, having been awarded the Winner of the best-kept large village award. Also, thanks to the people who sponsor the many floral displays that decorate the village.

The Council's appreciation also goes to the Club day committee for their untiring work in making Club day possible and the Council was pleased to hear that Freckleton Brass band continues to do well.

Financial report.

The Precept account - All expenditure was within or around budget figures, except for the Civic functions. This was overspent by £600 due to the lunch for the BAD2 visit (£400) and the purchase of additional lanterns for the Carol service (£200).

The Open Spaces account - This was over spent by £12K.

This was due to a shortfall in the grant from FBC (£2.5k), overspending on the Planting out contract (£2,8K) and increases in wages and electricity bills. The contracts for the new financial year are all on a fixed price basis and the electricity contracts have been re-negotiated.

The Community Development account - This was in budget and the following major development projects were completed - new Trees on Bush lane playing fields; a new Community Notice board; Demolition of the old Youth club; a new extension to storeroom and a new hedgerow in the Balderstone play area.

This year the Council's expenditure exceeded income by £5.4K, mainly due to the overspend in Open Spaces account.